Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM SF FR
SUBJ: US-FRENCH DISCUSSIONS ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ISSUES

REF: (A) PARIS 18364; (B) STATE 143861

1. AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH MET WITH FRENCH MFA ADVISER ON NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION MATTERS ANDRE JACOMET ON JUNE 23 IN PARIS. JACOMET REVIEWED THE HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA (REFS A AND B). SMITH REVIEWED HIS APPROVED POSITIONS PERTAINING TO THE SEVERAL NUCLEAR ISSUES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FROM JACOMET, SMITH STATED THAT THE SUPPLY OF KOEBERG FUEL, IF OTHER CONDITIONS WERE MET, WOULD BE FOR A PERIOD OF 10 YEARS. IN RESPONSE TO JACOMET'S QUERY ABOUT WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD BE "NON-SENSITIVE" FOR THE ENRICHMENT PLANT, SMITH REPEATED HIS POINT THAT THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO AGREE TO THE EXPORT OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SAFEGUARDS ASPECTS OF THE ENRICHMENT PLANT.

3. RELATING TO JACOMET'S PREVIOUS COMMENT OF THE SAG'S
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MENTION OF A TRILATERAL MEETING, JACOMET SAID THAT THE SUBJECT MATTER TO BE COVERED WOULD BE BROADER THAN THE KOEBERG REACTORS, PROBABLY GOING INTO MOST OF THE NUCLEAR ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST. APPARENTLY THE SOUTH AFRICANS ALSO MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING THE UK.

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4. ON THE MATTER OF THE FRENCH BACKING UP THE US FUEL SUPPLY FOR THE KOEBERG REACTORS, LOUET, QUAI DIRECTOR OF NUCLEAR AFFAIRS, SAID THAT IN PRINCIPLE THE GOF COULD PROVIDE SUCH A SERVICE; BUT IN PRACTICE IT WOULD NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH, AS THE GOF WILL FOLLOW EXACTLY THE USG POSITION ON NUCLEAR RELATIONS WITH THE SAG. THUS, IF FOR INTERNAL PROCEDURAL REASONS THE US DID NOT SUPPLY THE FUEL, THE GOF COULD PROVIDE BACK UP FUEL. CEA ADMINISTRATOR MICHEL PECQUEUR ADVISED THAT THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT ENRICHED URANIUM FROM EURODIF, PERHAPS FROM THE ITALIAN SHARE, TO MEET SUCH AN EVENT.

5. JACOMET ASKED WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES THE US WAS INFORMING ON ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAG. SMITH SAID THAT THE UK AND THE FRG HAD BEEN INFORMED IN GENERAL TERMS BUT NOT IN THE SPECIFIC TERMS COVERED DURING THIS VISIT.

6. THIS CABLE PREPARED AFTER AMBASSADOR SMITH'S DEPARTURE FROM PARIS. HE MAY WISH TO CORRECT OR ADD COMMENTS TO THE ABOVE.
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